

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected on prior art grounds. There is no indication in the Office Action whether claims 19-20 are allowed or rejected. Claims 1, 4, 8, 13, 17, and 20 are amended herein. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

I. The Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshina et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,785,764), hereinafter referred to as "Hoshina". Claims 7-12, 14-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yuichiro et al (JP 07074114), hereinafter referred to as "Yuichiro". Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

Hoshina teaches a susceptor for a gas phase growth apparatus to which a round depressed pocket with a bottom a side wall is formed for the placing of a semiconductor wafer wherein a protuberance is provided on the circumference of the pocket at and near the position where the semiconductor wafer touches the side wall of the pocket in such a way that the protuberance covers a part of a chamfered area of the semiconductor wafer without touching it. Thus cracks and breakage due to adhesion between a susceptor and a wafer may be prevented.

Yuichiro teaches a susceptor for supporting a wafer having a wafer pocket provided with tiny projections approximately 2 mm high on its lower wall. This susceptor is used for epitaxial growth of 15-wafer batches.

However, as amended the claimed invention includes patentable features not taught or

suggested in the prior art of record. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites, in part, "a pocket adapted to hold said substrate, wherein said pocket comprises an inner edge and a lower surface; and a plurality of projections extending radially inward from said inner edge; an opening in said lower surface; a pin disposed in said opening, said pin being configured for lifting said substrate from said pocket." Independent claim 8 recites, in part, "a pocket adapted to hold said substrate, wherein said pocket comprises an inner edge and a lower surface; and a plurality of projections extending radially inward from said inner edge; and an opening in said lower surface."

Additionally, independent claim 17 recites, in part, "a pocket adapted to hold said wafer, wherein said pocket comprises an inner edge; and a plurality of projections extending radially inward from said inner edge; and a device positioned below said pocket, said device being configured for lifting said wafer from said pocket."

Whereas, neither Hoshina nor Yuichiro teach an opening in the lower surface of the pocket. Moreover, neither Hoshina nor Yuichiro teach a pin/device in the opening positioned below the substrate/wafer configured for lifting the substrate/wafer from the pocket. These distinct features are clearly provided in the Applicants' specification as originally filed, in paragraph [0019], and further shown in the cross-sectional view of Figure 2. Conversely, in the cross-sectional views of Figures 8 and 10 in Hoshina, the pockets 24 do not have any openings, let alone any pins or devices positioned below the wafer 3 to lift the wafer 3 from the pocket 24. Furthermore, none of the other drawings or descriptions thereof in Hoshina teach these features. Likewise, the various drawings in Yuichiro also do not show or suggest these features. As such, the amended claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Thus, the novel configuration of the Applicants' claimed invention is a clear distinction from either Hoshina or

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Yuichiro, and as such in view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

II. Formal Matters and Conclusion

With respect to the rejections to the claims, the claims have been amended, above, to overcome these rejections. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1, 8, and 17 are patentable over either Hoshina or Yuichiro. Furthermore, dependent claims 2-7, 9-16, and 18-20 are similarly patentable, not only by virtue of their dependency from a patentable independent claim, but also by virtue of the additional features of the invention they define. Additionally, no new matter is being added.

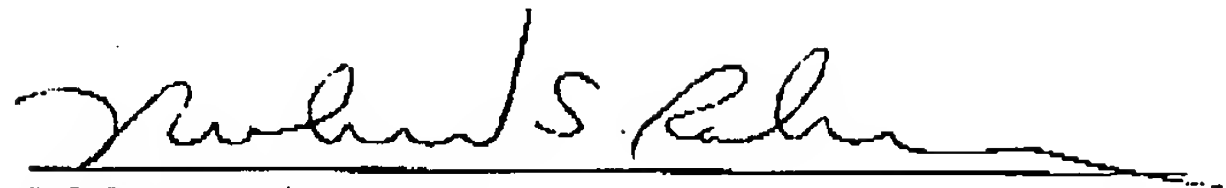
In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections to the claims. Applicants submit that claims 1-20, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 09-0456.

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Respectfully submitted,

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